

# Baptist And Reflector

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News-Journal Of Tennessee Baptist Convention

## SBC 1976: A View From The Afterglow

**NORFOLK**—Still basking in the afterglow of a high-candlepower national spotlight, which radiated both heat and light here during three hectic mid-June days, Southern Baptist editors across the nation have started trying to interpret just what transpired during the 119th annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

That spotlight, fed by media ranging from the Village Voice to the national TV networks, was lit by two men—one as highly visible by his presence as the other was by his absence.

Extricating himself from his frantic scramble to win the Republican presidential nomination from Ronald Reagan, Gerald R. Ford, an Episcopalian, journeyed to Norfolk to become the first incumbent U.S. President ever to address the SBC.

Meanwhile, Jimmy Carter, a Southern Baptist deacon and SBC agency trustee, remained out of sight—but not out of mind—putting the finishing touches on his remarkable surge to an apparent presidential nomination by the Democratic Party.

That combination intrigued the news media—already intrigued by the Carter phenomenon alone. It either puzzled, ruffled or dazzled individual Baptists, depending on how each viewed the political and religious ramifications of the invitation to Ford to speak and the presidential security and fire safety measures which entangled with SBC procedures and kept several thousand registered “messengers” at bay.

Only the first 10,500 messengers of the unofficial record 18,672 to register for the convention got special passes to hear Ford in the Scope Convention Center, a facility too small for the nation’s largest Protestant denomination even in a normal year. Some 2500 others got into adjoining Chrysler Hall to see Ford on closed circuit TV. Others either watched a live telecast on local TV or fumed outside Scope unable to get in.

Considering Baptists’ historical penchant for a good fight, it could have been grim—especially since a number of messengers had arrived with their spiritual teeth set on edge over some internal doctrinal/political disagreements.

“Like a strong rubber band, the Southern Baptist Convention was stretched to new formations during sessions in Norfolk . . . , but always returned to its original shape of cooperation and abiding by the will of the majority,” wrote Oscar

Hoffmeyer Jr., associate editor of Louisiana’s “Baptist Message”.

It was the sign of a denomination come of age. “The messengers to the SBC seemed to be growing in maturity,” noted J. Everett Sneed, editor of the Arkansas “Baptist Newsmagazine”. The SBC showed “balance and poise,” said James F. Cole, editor of the “Baptist Message”.

The Ford invitation had drawn criticism

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By Robert O'Brien

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of some in advance of the meeting on grounds that it was not wise in a political year to give a candidate a platform at the SBC. One state Baptist editor, Robert J. Hastings of Illinois, had urged the committee on order of business to withdraw the invitation. The committee, chaired by Maryland editor R. Gene Puckett, declined, saying Ford was invited not as a candidate but as President to speak on a Bicentennial emphasis.

With one notable exception—C. R. Daley, editor of Kentucky’s “Western Recorder”—state Baptist editors, expressed general approval, in retrospect, of the Ford address. Hastings, echoing most of his colleagues, said Ford’s message “was a high point of the convention. Refusing to use the platform as a political springboard, he paid what I took to be genuine praise of Baptists and what they stand for . . .”

But Bob S. Terry, editor of Missouri’s “Word and Way”, wrote: “The convention did not endorse President Ford by having him on the program. In fact, a resolution was adopted which stated that the traditional policy of not endorsing candidates be affirmed. But the President’s appearance constituted the highest form of praise for Baptist principles of religious liberty, morality in government and the personal relationship of every person to Jesus Christ.”

At first it appeared SBC business would get sidetracked in the presidential hoopla. But it didn’t.

“It is unfortunate that the 1976 SBC will be remembered as the year the President came,” wrote Alvin C. Shackelford, editor of the “Indiana Baptist”, “when there was a number of significant matters on the agenda—the missions challenge for the remainder of the century; a study report on the opera-

tion of our SBC Executive Committee; the convention’s first statement on homosexuality; an operating budget for our combined agencies which is increased nearly 20 per cent above the previous year; and record messenger enrollment . . .”

Editorials in state Baptist papers expressed strong approval of such actions as voting of a \$55 million national Cooperative Program unified budget and approving recommendations to double the SBC mission force at home and abroad and bring the gospel to every one in the world by the year 2000.

Except for some scattered comment about heated discussions surrounding it, the SBC action reaffirming its moderate position on abortion drew no opposition. And editors expressed general approval of stands against homosexuality, the teaching of Transcendental Meditation in public schools, government interference in church pension plans, advertising of beverage alcohol, and distribution of pornography.

But the editors were mixed in their views of whether the convention was “significant” or “not so significant,” “good” or “great” or “not so spectacular.” “Views of the convention, as always, are determined by the mind-set of the beholder,” explained James Langley, editor of the “Capital Baptist” of the D.C. Convention. “Some came away inspired by challenging speakers and stirring music. Others found little of the courageous and prophetic, and no real ‘rocking of the boat.’”

An editor or two—particularly Jack Harwell of Georgia’s “Christian Index”—voiced the annual complaint that there’s still not enough time to conduct convention business and hear what messengers want to say in the midst of a welter of other program features. But several editors commented on the convention’s “fairness” and “democracy” in allowing a messenger from Georgia, Herschel A. Markham, to express his views on what he felt was communistic public school literature, even though they felt he did so in a disruptive manner.

The editors unanimously—and profusely—praised the work and ability of outgoing SBC president, Jaroy Weber of Lubbock, and the move by the convention to elect James L. Sullivan, retired SBC Sunday School Board president, on the first ballot. Sullivan, running against four other nominees, reportedly collected 54 per cent of the vote.

Two editors—Theo Sommerkamp of the  
(Continued on page 4)

# GROW UP!

By Herschel H. Hobbs

*"Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men." I Corinthians 14:20*

In his discussion of tongues Paul has shown repeatedly that this gift belongs to the childhood stage of Christianity (see I Cor. 13:11). Now he stresses that fact.

Literally, "stop becoming children in your thinking." They were doing this as they squabbled over the gifts of the Spirit. In their spiritual immaturity they did not know how to use them as intended (see Heb. 5:11-14). In I Corinthians 3:1-2 Paul referred to his readers as "babes" or spiritual infants. The Greek word used here he also used in 13:11. And he uses it in 14:20b. The word for "children" in verse 20a refers to an older child.

So Paul exhorts his readers to do three things. (1) They are to stop thinking like children. (2) They are to be like babies in malice, not hold a grudge. (3) They are to think like adults.

The Corinthians' emphasis upon tongues showed Christian immaturity, especially as they let it become a divisive issue in the church fellowship. Whatever the nature and purpose of the gift may or may not have been, they were defeating it in childish thinking and spiteful action.



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# 'Thank You, Noah'

By Caroline Henderson

Lamech called his son's name Noah, saying, "This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord hath cursed" (Gen. 5:29).

Noah,  
I like to think about you.  
Your father said you would bring comfort  
And you do comfort me—encourage me!  
Since Adam and Eve, in a perfect environment,  
Could not resist the tempter's wiles,  
And so were shut out from the tree of life,  
What hope can I have  
Of living right in my environment—  
My anything but perfect environment?

But you, in an environment  
Altogether evil  
Proved by God's grace  
Man can live a righteous life  
Even when surrounded by evil.

I am descended from Adam  
And bear the marks of Adam's sin.  
But I am also descended from you, Noah,  
And have the potential for victory  
That you experienced—only more so.

I have the enabling power  
Of the indwelling Christ  
Through Him I, too, can find favor in  
God's sight.

I can live an overcoming life  
In the midst of a society  
Where evil seems to triumph.

My Lord has promised:  
"To him that overcometh  
Will I give to eat of the tree of life,  
Which is in the midst of the paradise of  
God" (Rev. 2:7).

So! Noah, I like to think about you.  
Your victory, your faith, and your obedience.

Your years of faithful witnessing  
As you toiled on and on  
Remind me that I, too, can triumph  
Over sin and doubt and fears  
And be a living witness.

"Thanks be to God Who gives us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Cor.  
15:57 TEV)

*Miss Henderson was editor of Broadman Comments and study course books at the Baptist Sunday School Board until October 1965, when she retired. She is an adult Sunday School teacher at Lincova Hills Church in Nashville.*

## Preschool Workshop Slated For Nashville, Aug. 11

A workshop designed to aid all church-related kindergarten and day care directors and teachers will be held in Nashville at Two Rivers Church, Aug. 11-13. The workshop is sponsored by the Sunday School Dept., Tennessee Baptist Convention.

According to Wendell Price, state Sunday School director, the emphases will be given to curriculum and activities for children birth through three; Mother's Day Out programs; music, art, and science. The theme will be "The Child and His Self Concept."

Instructors will include Bill Halbert, Baptist Sunday School Board; Dixie Crase, Memphis State University; and Jane Stone, Broadmoore Church, Jackson, Miss.

Pre-registration should be made through the Sunday School Dept., TBC.

## Pulpit To New

By Jim Griffith

The sheriff of a small backwoods county received from the state police six pictures of a wanted criminal, all taken from different angles.

After a week, the sheriff notified the state police: "I received the pictures of the six suspects wanted. We've captured five of them and we are hot on the trail of the sixth."

We could wish that all church members were just as attentive to their task and would move out to bring in the missing man as soon as they had gotten the picture.

There is a lesson in outreach here: We must go after man from every angle. The sheriff decided—and with a certain degree of evangelistic truth—that anyway you look at him, man needs to be captured.

This is part of the meaning of the plaintive plea from the old hymn: "Bring Them In." Bring in all men until we have captured the total man for the total Christian task!

# Religious Educators Affirm SBC Church Literature

By Jim Newton

**VIRGINIA BEACH**—In a thinly-veiled slap at the church literature publishing efforts of the ultra-conservative Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship, the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association voted here to commend the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board for publishing Bible-centered, doctrinally-sound literature.

The action came just three weeks after Baptist Press had reported that the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship was publishing literature through its Baptist Literature Board, claiming the literature was "produced by Southern Baptists" when actually it was written and edited for and by Scripture Press, a non-denominational publishing house in Wheaton, Ill.

The religious educators voted without debate or opposition to commend the SBC Sunday School Board for providing "Bible-centered, doctrinally-sound, educationally-based, high-quality curriculum materials at the most economical prices for use by our churches."

The association also encouraged Baptist pastors and educational ministers to involve key church leaders in evaluating the denomination's literature, and "the long-range implications of using other than Southern Baptist materials in a church's education program."

Keener Pharr, chairman of the association's findings (resolutions) committee which presented the motion, told the 250 Baptist religious educators that the motion was significant "in the light of recent events."

Pharr, director of the education division for the Florida Baptist Convention, did not mention the Baptist Literature Board nor the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship by name, but confirmed afterwards that the statement was aimed at the conservative group.

"We felt that a positive, rather than a negative, statement was needed at this time," Pharr said. "We don't need to start a fight over it, but we felt we needed to give positive support to the good, effective literature produced by our convention."

Robert O. Feather, president of the association and associate minister at Park Cities Church in Dallas, interpreted the motion as a direct response to the disclosure that the Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship was distributing Scripture Press literature under the false pretense that it was Baptist produced.

## Tennesseans Elected President, V-President

In other business, the association elected a Sunday School Board executive as its

new president, and commended the denomination agencies for the quality of their cooperative planning in the "Bold Mission Thrust" being projected by Southern Baptists in 1978-79.

The new president is William E. Young, supervisor of the children's section for the church training department of the Sunday School Board.

Named as vice president and president-elect was Elmer Bailey, minister of education for Bellevue Church, Memphis.

Most of the two-day meeting at the Cavalier Hotel here was devoted to addresses, panel discussions, and musical presentations carrying out the conference theme, "Freedom Through Christ."

U.S. Rep. John Buchanan (R., Ala.) sounded a patriotic theme in a luncheon address.

"Our country is great, not because it was born in a bed of roses with a silver spoon in its mouth, but because it has survived great adversaries and has learned from them," said Rep. Buchanan of Birmingham. He added he was convinced that only Jesus Christ can make men truly free, and give men freedom that lasts forever.

Daniel Grant, president of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., pointed out that there often is a very thin line between freedom that helps and freedom that hurts. "Sometimes, especially for parents rearing their children, it is necessary to deny freedom to help someone over a threshold to a higher freedom," Grant said.

Grant called for a closer partnership between the church and the home in helping people to become the persons God created them to be through freedom and responsibility.

## Help Needed From Churches

During a panel discussion, Harry Hollis, director of special moral concerns for the SBC Christian Life Commission in Nashville, cited the need for better help from the church to American families in seven different areas: Leading family worship in the home, helping make moral decisions on what is right and wrong, helping in sex education, helping cultivate intimacy, helping deal with violence in society, helping cope with family crises and helping families face future shock.

Both Hollis and Barbara Siddle, director of the Resources for Family Growth Project in Columbia, Md., pointed out that the church is the best institution in society equipped to help families. Hollis said the church is "the best friend and ally that the

## Golden Gate Alumni Name Wayne Eurich President

**NORFOLK**—Wayne Eurich, superintendent of missions for the San Diego Baptist Association, was elected president of the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni Association here Wednesday.

The association also paid tribute to three graduates as alumni of the year during their sessions at Central Baptist Church here.

Alumnus of the Year Awards went to Henry T. Blackaby, pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Clyde B. Skidmore, pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church, Bakersfield, Calif.; and Alfred M. Smoak, pastor of Alder Ave. Baptist Church, Fremont, Calif.

Other officers elected by the association include Max Kell, president-elect; L. Arthur Nunn, vice president; and Dan H. Coker, treasurer. Kell is pastor of the El Camino Baptist Church, Sacramento, Calif.; Nunn is pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Petaluma, Calif.; and Coker is pastor of Nineteenth Avenue Baptist Church in San Francisco.

family has ever had," and Siddle said that three-fourths of everything being done for the families in Columbia is being done by churches.

Four other panelists, however, pointed to the need for increased church ministries to the single adult as a "one-member family unit" and to the aging who often are shuttled off to nursing homes where they are forgotten.

Lloyd Householder, manager of the church training department for the Sunday School Board, warned that Baptist churches may have to change their approaches by the beginning of Century Three (the year 2000).

The Third Century Man, he said, will be less oriented toward learning during a specific time period, and more results oriented. Thus, the church will have a more difficult time getting people to come to church for just another meeting, he warned.

In the closing address, W. O. Thomason, executive vice president of the Sunday School Board, issued a challenge for the religious educators to pursue excellence in their work with a vision and passion for achieving what appears to be impossible.

Thomason said that to be successful, they must pursue excellence in a climate of openness and freedom, for only in such a climate can one devote totally his efforts to the pursuit of excellence.

Other officers elected by the association include two vice presidents, Jim Williams, a professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth; and Charles Lowry, director of the church program services division of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. Re-elected secretary-treasurer was Neta Stewart, dean of women at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth. (BP)

# SBC 1976: A View From The Afterglow

(Continued from page 1)

Ohio "Baptist Messenger" and Daley of Kentucky—applauded the election as a recognition by Baptists of the need to use the pool of talent of retirees. Several praised Southern Baptists reaching back for a historical SBC practice of electing SBC agency-related statesman.

John Roberts, editor of South Carolina's "Baptist Courier", summed up the unanimous reaction of the editors, noting that the new president "is one of the best prepared men ever elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Few people are more knowledgeable in denominational matters. He knows Baptists, their strengths and their weaknesses, better than almost anyone else living . . . Baptists love and respect Sullivan . . . They admire him for his frankness, openness and integrity. They see both his doctrinal beliefs and his denominational loyalty as genuine."

A number of the editors interpreted Sullivan's election as rejection by the messengers of divisiveness and ultra-conservatism.

"The unity of the convention was seen in the choice of Dr. James L. Sullivan as president on the first ballot, even though other strong candidates were nominated," wrote Joe Odle, editor of the Mississippi "Baptist Record". "This first ballot choice reveals the great confidence Southern Baptists have in Dr. Sullivan and also their determination to keep the convention in the path of the 'middle of the road conservatism' where it has so long stood."

John Hurt, editor of the "Baptist Standard" in Texas, said the convention "turned its back on dissidents both organized and otherwise, and accepted as a major thrust the sharing of Christ with all the world before the turn of the century."

But Hurt also said the election "was not a clear-cut issue since Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis and a director of the (Baptist Faith and Message) Fellowship, withdrew after being nominated. He explained he had not given permission for the nomination and was declining because the 'Lord spoke to my heart,'" Hurt wrote.

His withdraw of his nomination and the manner in which he conducted the Pastors' Conference, an annual pre-convention meeting of SBC pastors, raised his stature in the eyes of several editors, summed up by Edgar Cooper of Florida "Baptist Witness": "It was evident that his action relieved the tension that had built up over the election . . . Rogers did the right thing . . ."

"This editor's fear that the Pastors' Conference would provide an opportunity for a special interest group to influence the con-

vention proved to be without foundation," wrote Sneed of Arkansas.

Harwell of Georgia and Shackelford in Indiana commended the Memphis pastor, respectively, for his "statesmanship" and being "a man of his word" because he had said he would not be a candidate and followed through on what he said. Puckett of Maryland and Harwell both noted that Rogers looms as an eventual candidate for president. ". . . If he disassociates himself from the BFMF, he may someday be president of the Convention," Puckett said.

The editors in general saw a unified convention, with missions and evangelism at its heart and an unswervable commitment to middle of the road conservatism. "It was truly one of our finest hours," said Julian Pentecost of Virginia's "Religious Herald". "The outlook continues to be bright for Southern Baptists," added Marse Grant of North Carolina's "Biblical Recorder". "The few detractors and critics will continue to be around, but will serve a good purpose by keeping those in the mainstream alert and aware of what's going on," Grant continued. "Southern Baptists refuse to

## Foundation Executives Name Randolph of Kentucky President

NORFOLK—Grady Randolph, executive secretary of the Kentucky Foundation, Middletown, Ky., was elected president of the Association of Baptist Foundation Executives at the organization's annual luncheon meeting here.

Other officers are Ed Coates, executive secretary of the North Carolina Foundation, Raleigh, vice president; Harry D. Trulove, executive secretary of the Arkansas Baptist Foundation, Little Rock, secretary-treasurer; and Tal Roberts, vice president of the Baptist Foundation of Texas, Dallas, secretary-treasurer elect.

Speakers at the meeting included Michael Speer, associate executive director of the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission, Nashville; and Grady C. Cothen, president of the SBC Sunday School Board, Nashville.

The 22 state Baptist foundations and the Southern Baptist Foundation invest over \$220 million a year for the benefit of Baptist causes at home and around the world.

go off on tangents—a characteristic which is significant in these days when extremists in some denominations are having a field day sowing division and discord." (BP)



Members of Oak Grove Church, Covington, held dedicatory services at the church for the R. B. Owen Park, located on adjacent church property. The park was named in memory of Owen who was a member of the church for 54 years, a deacon for 28 years, and Sunday School director for 18 years. He served on the executive committee of Big Hatchie Association for 10 years. M. B. Howard Jr. designed the park, and the Brotherhood of the church completed the project. Pictured above are the family of Owen: son John, daughter Carolyn, and Mrs. Owen, along with Fred Tubbs, Oak Grove pastor; Ralph Kelley, president of the Brotherhood; Teddy Evans, interim pastor at Covington First Church; Howard; and Jim Witherington, pastor, Rugby Hills Church, Memphis.

# 'BORN AGAIN': What Does It Mean?

By Henlee Barnette

**LOUISVILLE**—Presidential candidate Jimmy Carter's assertion in press interviews that he is a "born-again Christian" caused the reporters a bit of consternation as they attempted to figure out what he meant.

A religion editor of a leading metropolitan newspaper phoned a noted church historian and conversed for an hour attempting to gain some insight into this concept of "being born again."

All of this reminds us of another intellectual, Nicodemus, who was mystified when Jesus told him that he could not even "see" the Kingdom of God without the experience of the new birth (John 3:1-15).

Being born again is indeed a concept which is puzzling to the modern mind. It is in that category of religious terms such as love, spiritual, and salvation which become almost meaningless by much imprecise usage. Even some Christians have vague notions as to what the phrase actually means.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Southern Baptists around the country have received numerous queries from secular news media and others about what Democratic presidential hopeful Jimmy Carter, an active Southern Baptist layman, means when he says he is "born again." Henlee Barnette, professor of Christian ethics at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., wrote the following article to explain what the term means.

Being born again or "from above" is to be begotten or sired of God into a new being. The believer must not only be born of "water" (John the Baptist's repentance-baptism) but of the "Spirit" (John 3:5). John's baptism was "unto repentance." But the Spirit enters the process to bring about the new birth. One is begotten by a spiritual "seed" (sperma) of conception in contrast to the "seed" (sperma) of physical birth (John 3:6, cf. John 1:13; I Peter 1:23).

The new birth is not mere reform but being reborn. To be a new man is to have a new beginning. To have a "new whither, one must have a new whence." This is what one cannot have without being born "from above" or of God.

Being born anew was no strange idea in Jesus' day. Jews were familiar with this concept. The proselyte who embraced Juda-

ism was considered a "newborn child." When a believer in the ancient Greek mystery religions achieved a mystic union with God, he was considered to be "twice-born."

What does the new birth mean for us today? How does this unique experience come about? What are its personal and ethical implications in our scientific and secular society?

The new birth is the result of a personal encounter with the contemporaneous Christ. This involves a consciousness of being a sinner, repentance from sin, and faith in Jesus Christ as redeemer and lord of life. It includes the commitment of the total self to a Person, not a principle; to the living Christ, not a dead creed. It comes about by divine grace and not merely good deeds (Eph. 2:8-9).

The new birth is deeply ethical. It means being born into a new way of life with new responsibilities. Hence, the experience of the new birth is a radical change of life, so radical that it is like being born all over again. This experience makes it possible to "see" or to enter the Kingdom of God and calls for the believer to submit to the Kingdom's ethical demands of love, justice and righteousness.

After his discourse on the nature of the new birth for Nicodemus, Jesus specifically identifies its moral expression (John 3:19-21). Born again disciples "do the truth." Doing the truth is living in the light of the truth as revealed in Christ who is the Truth (John 5:32). The doer of evil deeds avoids the light and scurries for cover for fear of exposure. To do the truth is to face reality concerning self and others and to practice truth in one's personal life, the church and society. In short, the new birth issues in "visible obedience" to the will of God.

The Christian celebrates his spiritual birthday because he is born into a new way of life. He possesses a whole new perspective on the world. While it is the same old world, he sees it through new eyes. Paul declares that: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17)

He is not speaking of a new creature in the sense of an ontological change in the individual. Rather, he is referring to the transformation of the perspective of the one who is in union with Christ. As the New English Bible puts it: "When anyone is united with Christ, there is a new world." This is the point of the context of the verse (2 Cor. 5:16-21).

Here the apostle asserts that he no longer



Members, of Atkin Church, Corryton, broke ground for a new building. It is scheduled to be occupied by late fall. Left to right are: Tommy Archer, Ray Shelby, L. V. Knight Jr., Pete Woods, George Walker, and Pastor Jack Day.

## Deacon Ministry Seminar Scheduled In Nashville

**NASHVILLE**—A "National Deacon Ministry Seminar" designed for deacons, pastors, church staff members, other laymen and their wives will be conducted Aug. 12-14 in the Church Program Training Center at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here.

"The seminar contents will include in-depth study in the work of deacons," says Charles F. Treadway, seminar director and deacon ministry consultant in the board's church administration department. "It will help pastors, deacons and other participants to improve deacon ministry in their churches."

Persons assisting Treadway in the seminar include Jim Henry, pastor, Ferris Jordan, associate pastor, and Bob Marklein, deacon, all of Two Rivers Baptist Church here; Ernest Mosley, supervisor of the pastoral section in the board's church administration department; and Reuben Herring, editor of "The Deacon" magazine, a board publication.

According to Treadway, Two Rivers Church has one of the most effective deacon ministries in the Southern Baptist Convention. During the seminar, Henry, Jordan and Marklein will discuss the church's deacon ministry.

Persons interested in registering for the seminar should send a \$5 deposit to the Church Program Training Center, 127 Ninth Ave., North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234.

regards man from the "human point of view." That is to say, he now looks at every man in the light of the new order which has begun with Christ.

For the born anew person, then, the old perverted outlook on life has passed away and there is a totally new perspective on reality. (BP)

*Henlee Barnette is professor of Christian Ethics, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.*

# Churches Oppose New Proposed IRS Rules

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON—Baptists joined hands with representatives of major religious bodies to oppose proposed regulations by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) which they claim will result in an excessive entanglement of government in the affairs of the churches.

The IRS is seeking to define "integrated auxiliaries of a church" by amending Section 6033 of the Internal Revenue Code. The IRS claims that it is merely carrying out the mandate imposed by Congress in the Tax Reform Act of 1969.

The churches, on the other hand, charge that IRS lacks legislative authorization for its proposal which, they say, results in a definition of the nature and mission of the church by government. This is a violation of the First Amendment which provides for separation of church and state, the churches claim.

At the all-day hearing here on June 7, four Baptists were among 14 scheduled witnesses from church and religious groups. James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, represented eight national Baptist bodies in the United States.

Other Baptists opposing the proposed IRS regulation were: Gary S. Nash, attorney for the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), Earl Trent, representing James A. Christison of the Board of National Ministries of the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A., and Wayne Dehoney, pastor of the Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, and former SBC president.

Spokesmen for other religious bodies also opposed the proposed IRS regulations. They were the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., the Roman Catholic Church, the National Association of Evangelicals, the United Church of Christ, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the Western Association of Christian Schools, and the American Association of Christian Schools.

The importance of the hearing was emphasized by the presence of IRS Commissioner Donald C. Alexander and other highly placed IRS officials.

## Several Courses Open

While the church spokesmen attacked the proposals head-on, the IRS representatives were notably defensive in what they were trying to do. It was not clear at the end of the day what IRS intends to do about its proposed regulations. Several courses of action seem to be open to IRS.

IRS can proceed to approve the regulations as they are now proposed. It can drop the proposal altogether. It can modify the proposal in an attempt to satisfy the objections of the churches. It can come up with completely new and different regulations. It could ask Congress to clarify its mandate to IRS in the Tax Reform Act of 1969.

In the event the regulations are approved in their present form, church reaction would range all the way from conformity, to seeking change by Congress, to challenging in the courts, to refusing to comply with IRS regulations.

According to the proposed IRS regulations, "Integrated auxiliary of a church means an organization . . . (a) whose primary purpose is to carry out the tenets, functions, and principles of faith of the church with which it is affiliated, and (b) whose operations in implementing such primary purpose directly promote religious activity among members of the church."

## Reasons For Opposition

Wood presented four major reasons for Baptist opposition to the proposed IRS regulation. He said:

1. "The informational requirements under the proposed rules would put the Internal Revenue Service in the wholly unacceptable and unconstitutional role of monitoring the internal workings of a church, association or convention of churches, and their integrated auxiliaries.

2. "The churches' acceptance of the proposed rules would be tantamount to their acceptance of the authority of the state to define the role and mission of the churches.

3. "The proposed rules do not properly interpret or carry out the clearly expressed will of Congress in creating section 6033 of the Internal Revenue Code.

4. "The proposed rules could have an extensive and detrimental impact on a number of programs which Baptist churches consider to be an integral part of their religious mission."

Nash charged that the proposed regulations would necessitate excessive governmental entanglement in church affairs, that it would seriously damage many Baptist church programs, especially those like the program of pensions as administered by the Annuity Board, SBC.

Trent charged that the definition as proposed by IRS would disqualify many of the agencies and greatly curtail the mission activity of the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. He expressly stated that, if the IRS

## Mission Story Is Told By Brotherhood And WMU

NORFOLK—Ken Medema, Carolyn Weatherford and Glendon McCullough told the story of missions education in a musical-speech presentation at the closing session of the Southern Baptist Convention here Thursday night.

Medema, a blind pianist-singer-composer, from New York, helped as Miss Weatherford, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, and McCullough, executive director of the Brotherhood Commission, told of missions education the two agencies provide.

They were helped by many others—Arthur B. Rutledge of Atlanta, executive director of the Home Mission Board, Baker James Cauthen of Richmond, executive director of the Foreign Mission Board; four missionaries, and the presidents of the two organizations, P. A. Stevens of Louisville, Ky., and Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va.

Medema drew a standing ovation when he completed a song which featured a plea for God to "teach us to care . . . teach us to dare . . ."

Before the presentation, Walter P. Shurden, professor of church history at Carson-Newman College, gave three points as to what the church can do about personal integrity.

First, he said is to be honest, and "confess that there is no such thing as perfect integrity."

"Next, even as we confess the absence of perfect integrity, we send out the challenge to struggle for integrity . . . to urge people not to stop shooting at the bullseye even though we don't always hit it."

The third point, according to Shurden, is that the church should "provide a sanctuary for the recovery of integrity . . . a place to struggle for integrity in the context of love." (BP)

regulation is approved, the officials of the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A. would refuse to comply with its requirements.

Dehoney, the only witness representing an individual local congregation, said that the proposed regulations would permit a bureaucratic structure and government employees arbitrarily to make judgments in defining what is a church, in determining what are the legitimate ministries and expressions of a church's ministry to its members, its community and to humanity, and in determining what is the church's role in meeting the social, physical, educational and spiritual needs of people.

The former SBC president warned, "The consequences of these proposals are frightening. In the defining of 'integrated church auxiliaries' we would be turning the clock back to the pre-revolutionary era when local magistrates were permitted to define 'proper church activities'."



# Our People and Our Churches . . .

## REVIVALS . . .

Tellico Plains First Church was led in revival by **F. M. Dowell**, director, Dept. of Evangelism, Tennessee Baptist Convention. There were 11 additions by baptism, 10 by letter, and one other profession of faith. There were also numerous rededications. **Benny F. Woods** is pastor.

Centerville First Church reported revival services resulting in nine public decisions, including six professions of faith for baptism. The services were led by **Jim Lindsey**, pastor of Emmanuel Church at Elizabethton. **Bill Osborne**, music director for the church, led the music. **Doyle Thompson** is pastor.

Snow Hill Church, Smithville, held revival services recently. There were 29 professions of faith. **Don Franks** served as evangelist, and **Thomas Taylor** is pastor.

Lexington First Church held revival services with **Charles W. Sullivan**, pastor, Southland Church, Memphis, serving as evangelist. **Sam Allen**, Lubbock, Tex., was the singer. There were 23 professions of faith. **Edwin E. Deusner** is in his 31st year as pastor.

Merton Avenue Church, Memphis, had revival services with **Clift Brannon** of Longview, Tex., serving as evangelist. **Ronnie Bowlus** led the singing. There were 15 additions by baptism and numerous rededications. **W. A. Foote** is pastor.

**Kenneth Kyker** was the evangelist for services at Springdale Church, Sullivan Association. There were six additions to the church and a number of rededications. **Dewey Ramey** is pastor.

Bethel Church, East Tennessee Association, reported seven professions of faith and several rededications during its revival. **James Kinser** was evangelist. **Harvey Evans** is pastor.

Nashville's Westwood Church was led in revival by **Benny Jackson**, Memphis. There were nine additions by baptism, one by letter, and several rededications. **Ted Harris** led the singing. **James M. Gregg** is pastor.

In Wilson County, Fairview Church reported 15 professions of faith and seven additions by letter during a revival. Services were led by **Billie Friel**, pastor, Mt. Juliet First Church. **Larry Bullard** is pastor.

Ramah Church, Wilson County, reported seven professions of faith during its recent revival with **Terry Fesler** serving as evangelist.

## LEADERSHIP . . .

Union Grove Church, Weakley Association, called **Bobby Sanders** as pastor.

West Union Church, Weakley Association, called **Charles Pence** as pastor.

**Thomas Haygood** resigned as pastor of East Laurel Church, Madison-Chester Association, but will serve as interim pastor for a short time. He is professor of sociology at Union University.

**Garry S. Miller**, pastor of Madison Church, Jackson, for two years, has resigned. He accepted a position with Rainbow Church in Rainbow, Tex., and will attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Chris Brasher** resigned as pastor of Perryville Church, Perryville.

**James Rogers** resigned as pastor of Mt. Ararat Church, Darden. **Donald Bain** is serving as interim pastor.

People's Missionary Church, Knox Association, called **Donny Walton**, a student at Cumberland College, as pastor. He is already on the field.

**John Higgins** is the new pastor at Ramsey Heights Church, Knox Association. He comes from Watauga Association.

**Kenny Cobble** is serving as interim pastor at Churchwell Avenue Church in Knox County. Former pastor **J. D. Brogdon** is serving a church in North Carolina.

**James Hutson** led revival services at Sevierville First Church which resulted in four additions by baptism and one by statement. **Grant Jones** is pastor.

New Salem Church, Clinton Association, was led in revival by **Robert P. Hamby** of Hendersonville, N.C. Five professions of faith were reported along with several rededications. **Henry Hollar** is pastor.

Evangelist **Henry H. Linginfelter**, Alcoa, led revival services at Roseberry Church, Mascot. **Don Townsend** led the singing. There were 22 professions of faith, three additions by letter, and two additions by statement.

Fellowship Church, Riverside Association, reports five baptisms and many new commitments following a week of revival services. **Harold Hunter**, pastor at Northside Church, McMinnville, served as evangelist. **Louis Wilson** is pastor at Fellowship.

**Billy Appling** has assumed the position of minister of music at Red Bank Church in Chattanooga. He comes to the position from Whitehaven Church in Memphis where he has served as minister of music for four years. He is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University and received a master of music degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. **Fred Steelman** is pastor at Red Bank Church.

**F. M. Wright** resigned as pastor at Hill's Creek Church, Sevier Association. The church called **William E. Parham** as pastor.

Zion Hill Church, Sevierville, called **W. A. Galyon** as pastor.

**Henry Morton** was called as pastor of Lebanon Church, Sevier Association.

**Ulyss Thomas** is serving as interim pastor at Roaring Fork Church, Gatlinburg.

**Steve Nelson** was called as music director at Boone Trail Church, Holston Association. **E. W. Barnes** is pastor.

**Burton V. Humphreys**, dean of Holston Baptist Bible Institute, was called as pastor of Mountain View Church, Greeneville.

Grace Church, Holston Association, called **Allen Davis** as pastor. He was a former pastor at the same church.

Westerly Heights Church, Johnson City, called **C. B. Dickenson** as pastor. He succeeds **Malcomb Ross** who retired after a 23-year tenure.

**Bill Bates**, Union University, is serving as interim pastor of Westover Church, Jackson.

## Mrs. Charles Norton's Mother Dies At 100

Funeral services were held July 1 in Chattanooga for Mrs. Fannie London Ledford, 100, mother of Mrs. Charles Norton of Nashville. Charles Norton served as Church Training director for the Tennessee Baptist Convention for 33 years before his retirement in 1975.

Ralph Norton, executive secretary-treasurer, TBC, conducted the services, which were held at Concord Church, Chattanooga. Burial was in Concord Cemetery.

In addition to her daughter, she is survived by another daughter, Mrs. J. Roy Bethune, Nashville; a son, C. D. Ledford, Chattanooga; 10 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild.

## LEADERSHIP . . .

West Paris Church, Western District Association, called **Doug Braden** as minister of music.

**Tommy Taylor** was called as minister of music and assistant pastor of Highland Church, Tullahoma. He has completed his first year at Belmont College. He is the son of **Mr. and Mrs. Del Taylor** of Tullahoma First Church.

Centerville First Church called **Glenn Osborn Jr.** as associate pastor.

**Ron Bowlus** resigned as minister of music at Speedway Terrace Church in Memphis. He plans to enter music evangelism full time. **Ted Witchen** is pastor at Speedway Terrace.

**Becky Bundon** is serving as summer children's director at Cedar Grove Church in Maryville. **Doug McPherson** is pastor.

**Phillip Bush** is serving as summer youth director at Immanuel Church, Nashville. **David C. George** is pastor.

**Charles Underwood** resigned as pastor of East Chattanooga Church, Chattanooga, to accept the call of Grace Church, Valdosta, Ga.

Mountain Creek Church, Chattanooga, called **Steve Witt** as pastor. **J. D. Pittman** has been serving as interim pastor.

**Jack Rinks** resigned as pastor of New Shepherd Hill Church, Ooltewah, to accept the call of First Church, Tompkinsville, Ky.

Ridgeview Church, Chattanooga, called **C. H. Petty** as interim pastor and he is already on the field.

In Clinton Association, **William Dawson** resigned as pastor of Red Hill Church.

**Cecil Hopson** resigned as pastor of Wolfe Valley Church, Heiskell.

**Hugh Lee Simmons** resigned as pastor of Mannings Chapel Church, Newport.

**Randall Joines** resigned as pastor of Mt. Zion Church, East Tennessee Association.

**Harry W. Hargrove** is serving as interim pastor at Meridian Church, Jackson.

Malesus Church, Malesus, called **Bill Moseley** as pastor. **Moseley** has been serving as a Southern Baptist missionary to Brazil where he was general evangelist.

**Sam W. Thomas** resigned from Bible Grove Church, Jackson, and will retire this summer to Harrisburg, Ill.

## PEOPLE . . .

Sand Hill Church, Weakley Association, ordained **James Douglas Morris** to the gospel ministry. He was called as pastor of Oak Grove Church, Martin.

**Mrs. Archer Robertson**, a charter member of Inglewood Church in Nashville, celebrated her 103rd birthday on June 5. Members of the church showered her with birthday cards at her residence, the East Villa Nursing Home in Nashville. **James Hopkins** is her pastor.

**Charles W. Pence** was ordained to the gospel ministry by Bethel Church, Greenfield. He is serving as pastor of West Union Church, Dresden. Bethel is his home church.

Members of First Church, Union City, honored **Mrs. Elaine Wright** at a retirement reception at the church. **Mrs. Wright** served as church secretary for over 22 years, serving under four pastors. She was presented a book of letters and a monetary gift. Special guests at the reception included her daughter **Mrs. James Donnell**, Memphis, and her brother of Fort Worth, Tex. **W. Fred Kendall II** is pastor at Union City.

**Mark Howard** resigned as pastor of Bethel Church, Madison-Chester Association, and is moving to Texas where he will attend Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Mark Blankenship** resigned as minister of music at Lebanon First Church. **Tom Henry** is pastor.

**W. A. Smith** is the new pastor at New Bethel Church, Hardeman County Association.

**Jerry Gallimore** resigned as pastor of Liberty Church, Weakley Association.

**Leo Moore** resigned as pastor of Macks Grove Church, Dresden.

New Salem Church, Strawberry Plains, called **Otha Woodby** as pastor.

In Gibson County Association, Trenton Church called **Ken Sanders** as youth director for the summer. He is a ministerial student at Union University.

## Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

I do enjoy the BAPTIST AND REFLECTOR. It is such a nice way to keep up and know what our great denomination is doing. For years I have looked forward to receiving this wonderful paper and at the age of 77½ years, I plan to continue receiving it as long as I am around.

Mrs. Perry Walker  
Old Brights Pike  
Morristown, TN 37814

## Atkinson To Join Mississippi College

**CLINTON, Miss.**—Ralph C. Atkinson Jr., who has served as dean of the school of religious education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1973, will join the administration of Mississippi College here, Aug. 1.

Atkinson, 41, will become vice president for institutional advancement, according to Lewis Nobles, president of the Baptist school. He will be responsible for long-range planning and financial development and will coordinate public relations and alumni activities.

A former administrative assistant at Mississippi College, his alma mater, Atkinson has been academic dean at Ottawa University in Kansas and Dallas Baptist College.

The Yazoo City, Miss., native holds a doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Michigan and a master of divinity degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, besides a bachelor of arts from Mississippi College. (BP)

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# Wood Opposes Proposal To Aid Church Schools

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON—Opposition to proposed tax aid to church schools pending in the U.S. Senate was voiced by James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs (BJCPA) here.

The aid to the schools would be in the form of a tax deduction for tuition paid by parents for dependents enrolled in church schools. The proposal is being pushed by

Sen. James L. Buckley (Conn., R., N.Y.) as an amendment to the Tax Reform Act of 1976 now on the congressional calendar.

The Senate Finance Committee headed by Sen. Russell B. Long (D., La.) rejected the Buckley amendment and substituted instead an amendment providing for tax credits for parents paying tuition for dependents in a college or university.

Buckley vowed opposition to the com-

mittee substitute and planned to move for his amendment to replace the committee recommendation. Either the committee plan or the Buckley plan would cost the taxpayers approximately \$1.8 billion.

The difference between the proposals is that Buckley would include all private schools on the elementary, secondary and higher education levels. His plan would be for tax deductions rather than tax credits. A spokesman in Buckley's office asserted that tax credit for tuition paid to church schools is unconstitutional while tax deductions meet the constitutional tests.

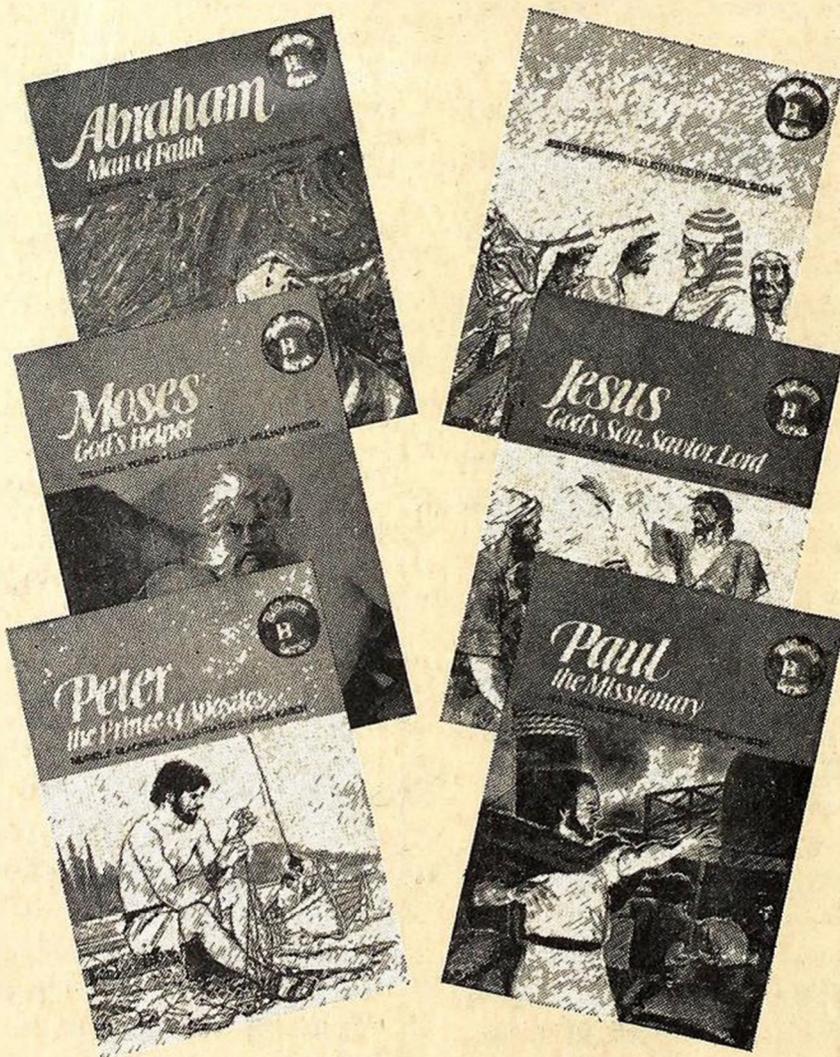
The finance committee plan is for tax credit for tuition paid only for higher education.

Wood said about the Buckley plan, "Both the purpose and the primary effect of this proposed legislation is to advance religion. Therefore, we are unalterably opposed to this legislation which is designed primarily to give government aid to parochial schools and preferential treatment to parents of children in church schools."

The Tax Reform Act of 1976 has been passed by the House of Representatives. When the Senate passes its version, a conference committee will consider the two and will report a revised bill to both houses of Congress. No amendments can be made to a report from a conference committee. Action will be taken almost immediately on the Tax Reform Act since the new fiscal year begins July 1.

The growing number of private schools and their associations, both religious and secular, constitute a heavy lobby for the Buckley proposal for aid to their schools. (BP)

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# Hultgren Warns Against Superficial Religion

**NORFOLK**—Southern Baptists were challenged in the annual convention sermon to begin communicating lasting meaning and fulfillment to other people by living Christ-like lives.

"The world is less and less impressed with the denominational nomenclature over our sanctuary doors," said Warren C. Hultgren, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tulsa. "They

do seek to see if what we preach and teach is personally meaningful, ethically determinative, and spiritually transforming."

Calling for fellow Baptists to reaffirm their personal relationship with Christ, Hultgren reminded that the Christian faith can be very superficial.

"Every generation must resolve the recurrent heresy that good form, correct ritual,

proper vocabulary, and orthodox theology are all that it takes to please God," Hultgren said.

The Oklahoma Baptist preacher described Christian faith as the absolute surrender to the Lordship of Christ which results in a difference in the lifestyle decision-making process and the value structure of the lives of people.

Hultgren said Southern Baptists probably have as much trouble with persons inside their congregations as they do with persons outside.

"One of the distinctive ironies and tragedies of our day is that the greatest critics of the Christian faith are not the outsiders but the insiders.

"The real confusion caused in the minds of the world is the religious leader who obscures spiritual truth by a web of words and denials of the essential doctrines which constitute the foundation-stones of our faith."

Hultgren said there was no question in his mind but that many active members of Southern Baptist churches have a subtle, secret suspicion that there must be more to Christianity than they have seen, heard, or personally experienced.

"They ask themselves if the church is just another social pressure group demanding a part of their time and a part of their money."

Hultgren urged the Southern Baptists to be realists, idealists, and optimists while reaffirming their confidence as believers. (BP)

## Bible Puzzle Page

Answers On Page 13

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10
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### ACROSS

- 1 Man in the Bible (1 Chron. 7:12; poss.)
- 4 Household need: abbr.
- 7 "and rent him —" (Mark 9)
- 11 Girl of song
- 12 He reigned after Baasha (1 Ki. 16:6)
- 13 Son of Jonathan (Ezra 8:6)
- 14 Iron, for one
- 15 Idleness
- 16 "A serpent shall — him" (Eccl. 10)
- 17 "— — — to drink" (Mark 9)
- 20 Part of a helmet
- 22 Portion of land
- 23 His children returned from Babylon (Ezra 2:57; poss.)

- 24 "— of life" (Phil. 4)
- 26 Feverish condition: abbr.
- 29 The merry-hearted do it (Isa. 24:7)
- 30 Spanish river
- 31 Biblical pronoun
- 32 Massachusetts's cape
- 33 Uncivilized
- 34 Greek mountains
- 35 Thought of foolishness (Prov. 24:9)
- 36 Go in
- 37 "given thee — —" (John 4)
- 42 Saul spared him (1 Sam. 15:9)
- 43 Asiatic songbird
- 44 Hur's son (1 Chron. 2:20)
- 47 Insect
- 48 Christmas carol
- 49 Kind of party

### CRYPTOVERSE

CGK GPKI RXRFL IPR ID GU HU VHXR  
 VFJOR JOOIFMHPV KI KWR BRJUGFR ID  
 KWR VHDK ID OWFHUK

Today's Cryptoverse clue: G equals U.

- 50 Formerly: archaic
- 51 Units of capacity: abbr.
- 52 Vocalized pause in speaking

### DOWN

- 1 O.T. book: abbr.
- 2 Floor covering
- 3 "we would — — —" (Matt. 12)
- 4 Sharp blow
- 5 Nahor's son (Gen. 22:22)
- 6 "and — — came" (Luke 17)
- 7 Month (Zec. 1:7)
- 8 Funeral notice
- 9 Network
- 10 City of Judah (Josh. 15:21)
- 12 Hebrew month
- 18 — on the barrelhead
- 19 Cooking vessel
- 20 Space agency: abbr.
- 21 Confidential agent: Hindu, var.
- 24 "— me into captivity" (Rom. 7)
- 25 Natural resource
- 26 "— — of the gospel" (Col. 1)
- 27 "measure that ye —" (Luke 6)
- 28 Fruit
- 31 Word used with color or control
- 33 Be victorious
- 35 View
- 36 And others: L.
- 37 "and the — came" (Matt. 21)
- 38 Stravinsky
- 39 Large containers
- 40 Sheep product
- 41 Metric units of area
- 45 Female ruff
- 46 "For judgment — — come" (John 9)

## BWA International Commission To Study Christian Ethics

**WASHINGTON**—A new international Study Commission on Christian Ethics has been appointed by the Baptist World Alliance. Robert S. Denny, BWA general secretary, announced here.

Named chairman was Foy Valentine, executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, Tenn., Denny said.

Co-chairman of the 30-plus member commission is Edith F. Robinson, who works with Christian education in Haiti for the American Baptist Churches in the USA. Secretary is R. Fred Bullen, general secretary of the Baptist Federation of Canada.

The new commission will continue a study of public morality, begun by a previous commission, and will be a forum for discussion of Christian insights on issues such as abortion, euthanasia, "mind-expanding" drugs, and ethics in investments.

Commission members will conduct their studies via correspondence and annual meetings and will prepare study papers, Denny said. (BP)

# Congress Hears Report Of Reform Russian Baptists

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON—Russian Reform Baptists are the best organized dissenting group among the various protest movements in the Soviet Union, according to testimony at a hearing by the House of Representatives' subcommittees on International Organizations and Political and Military Affairs here.

Professor Bohdan Bochiurkiw of the department of political science of Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, pointed out that the Russian government makes no distinction between religious and other types of dissenters. The Baptist group to which he referred is the dissenting body headed by imprisoned George Vins, executive secretary of the Initsiativniki (Reform Baptists), which was formed in 1961 as a protest group opposed to the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (AUCECB).

The hearing was under the direction of Rep. Donald M. Fraser (D., Minn.), chairman of the Subcommittee on International Organizations. Also participating in the hearing was Rep. John H. Buchanan (R. Ala.), who is a member of the Subcommittee on International Political and Military Affairs. This was the first of two hearings on religious persecution in the Soviet Union.

Other witnesses were Pastor Janis Smit, chairman of the Russian Reform Baptist group, and David A. Klassen, a dissenting Russian Baptist who has been a prisoner of conscience in the Soviet Union.

In addition, written testimony was submitted by George Dobczansky, research director of Human Rights Research, Inc.

## Rising Tide Of Dissent

The testimony by all of these persons indicated there is a rising tide of dissent of all forms in Russia which is being accompanied by increased religious persecution, political imprisonment and other forms of resistance by the government.

After the testimonies which described many instances of oppression in the Soviet Union, Fraser asked, "What can the United States government do most effectively to assist in opening up religious freedom in the USSR and to aid those who are now in prison?"

Professor Bochiurkiw replied that human rights everywhere in the world are a proper concern to be voiced by U.S. officials. He claimed that oppression and a violation of human rights is not an exclusive internal concern of the Russian government.

Specifically, the professor encouraged the development of a strong public opinion in America against denial of human rights in Russia, asked for continued publicity to be given to the many cases of persecution, de-

plored "detente" between the Soviet Union and the USA, and urged a Soviet policy that would make it possible for people in the USSR to migrate to places where they can practice their beliefs in freedom.

Smit replied to Fraser's question that Congress should adopt the resolution now before both the House and Senate calling for the release of George Vins from prison. He emphasized that the western powers should stop their blind attempts to appease the Soviet Union.

The former Latvian pastor said that the Voice of America is heard by the Russian people and that through this source they learn of developments within their own country. However, he cautioned that the Voice is beginning to lose its effectiveness because of the American policy of detente.

Klassen pointed out that during World War II the U.S. government and President Franklin D. Roosevelt found ways to relieve many forms of oppression in the Soviet Union. He said the U.S. government can again find ways to do the same thing.

"If Russians can receive wheat to keep from starving, we should be able to receive Bibles," Klassen asserted.

## Deprived of Pastoral Activities

Smit, who left the USSR, Soviet-occupied Latvia on May 25 of this year, told the hearing that he had been deprived of his pastoral activities for the following reasons:

1. "Preaching the New Testament in several Soviet republics and other cities other than my parish;
2. "Asking the believers to pray for those in prisons and persecuted; and
3. "Admitting minors below the age of 18 to church activities, in particular, singing in the choir."

Klassen outlined at the hearing seven methods of persecution implemented against the churches in Russian. They are:

1. Physical annihilation. He cited instances in which Christians were torn to pieces by dogs, tongues torn out and branding by hot irons, suffocation and drowning.
2. Psychological tactics. He cited instances of deprivation of parental rights and taking children away from their parents.
3. Trojan war tactics. He said that the ministry of cults "penetrates church communities by smuggling in false preachers who destroy the churches from within."
4. Religious badgering. He cited his experiences of over three years in an experimental camp where members of over 40 religious denominations were harassed.
5. National harassment. He cited an instance where the government forced a mem-

## Friendship Church Holds Constitution Services

Friendship Church, New Duck River Association, held constitution services on Sunday, June 27. The church is formerly the Flat Creek Chapel, a mission of Shelbyville First Church for 16 years.

A. T. Royer is pastor of the sponsoring church. Franklin D. Howard is pastor of the new church.

Members attended a dinner-on-the-ground following the constitution service.

ber of his church to give testimony against him, threatening to deprive him of his job when he refused to do so.

6. Offering of bribes. Klassen said, "Depending on whether the believers remain faithful to the church or prefer to compromise for the sake of material welfare, the believers had to pay a fine of two million rubles for illegal gathering in their own homes for religious purposes."

7. Provocational tactics. He said that "various types of slander and lies are directed at the ignorant masses to provoke anti-Christian feelings."

## Witnesses Attack Russian Churchmen

All three of the witnesses who appeared in person at the hearing attacked churchmen in Russia who cooperate with the government in the officially permissible religious programs.

Professor Bochiurkiw pointed out that the atheistic Soviet government had made some concessions to certain official church leaders. "This leads them to say that there is no religious persecution in Russia," he said. "This is true," he continued, "if people keep their religious views private, but when they speak out openly the government's attitude changes."

Smit claimed that the Reformed Baptist movement in Russia under the leadership of Georgi Vins was made necessary because the "state-controlled All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists" had refused to call an extraordinary All-Union Congress since 1944. "The then-leadership of AUCECB blindly carried out the instructions of the atheistic communist government," and that "AUCECB was trying to incite local churches to anti-Christian deeds," Smit alleged.

When the Reformed Baptist movement got under way in 1961, Smit said that "a spark of truth and resistance lit the hearts of thousands of believers throughout the whole Soviet Union."

He continued, "What followed is a long story but the outcome in practical terms was a flat refusal of the state-controlled All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists to agree to a restoration of Christian and biblical normalcy in the life of the church. On the contrary, the 'organizational committee' transformed itself into a so-called 'Council of Churches of the Evangelical Christians-Baptists.'" (BP)

# Southwestern Seminary Slates Oklahoma Center

**FORT WORTH**—Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will open a branch center offering fully accredited seminary training in the Oklahoma City area beginning this fall, according to Jesse Northcutt, vice president for academic affairs. The center will be the second one opened by Southwestern Seminary since last year when a similar program was begun in Houston, Tex., Northcutt said.

The latest program is a joint endeavor of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, which is financially underwriting the program, Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU), which is providing the classroom and support space, and the seminary.

The program will offer accredited graduate level courses which will lead to the master of divinity and the master of religious education degrees. Officials also expect to begin offering doctor of ministry seminars at a later date.

The initial Monday only courses, to begin August 30, are expected to be taught on the OBU campus at Shawnee, with the full resources of OBU's Mabee Learning Center to be made available to the seminary students. Professors from the seminary will fly to Oklahoma each week to conduct the various courses.

Students participating in the Oklahoma project must hold a college degree and will be expected to meet all admission requirements which are set out for any other enrolling seminary student, a spokesman said. The standard application fee of \$10 will be charged and there will be a \$150 matriculation fee per semester for each student.

According to Northcutt, the opening of this second branch reflects a growing movement in theological education throughout the country. "As a part of this movement, more seminaries are taking their resources to the minister rather than have the minister come to the seminary.

"This is especially needed among Southern Baptists where less than half of all our

pastors have any type of seminary training. We are encouraged by the response of pastors and church staff personnel to our program in Houston and in the state of Oklahoma," Northcutt noted.

Southwestern, which holds claim to being the largest seminary in the world, is one of six seminaries operated by the Southern Baptist Convention. Currently at least three other SBC seminaries operate similar branch programs in such areas as Los Angeles, Calif., Little Rock, Ark., Jacksonville, Fla., Norfolk, Va., Atlanta, Ga., Nashville, Tenn., and Columbus, Ohio. (BP)

## Pastors' Wives Need To Forget 'Pedestal'

**LOUISVILLE**—A pastor's wife should "forget the pedestal" on which members of her husband's congregation may unconsciously place her, believes Martha Nelson, author of several books on Christian women and a pastor's wife for 31 years.

"Pastors' wives are honored in special ways, when really they shouldn't be placed on a pedestal," she said in an interview at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary here while doing research for her new book.

Her husband, Carl, is the pastor of Pelahatchie (Miss.) Baptist Church.

"We need to get in, roll up our sleeves and forget position, and focus on contribution," Mrs. Nelson added, noting all the women in the church are a part of "the team."

"I often say to the deacons' wives, 'We're in this thing together.' We are all ministering for God in our different ways—the working woman in her place at the desk, the school cook in a cafeteria line, the social worker, the teacher, the nurse—all have such a tremendous opportunity to minister."

She noted one way for women to feel more fulfilled in their work at the church is to specialize.

"So often we dabble at the task of the church. If we could just specialize, the church could gain so much.

"If you're a children's worker, become a great children's worker. Learn and grow and develop, rather than just doing a little of this and a little of that."

Mrs. Nelson's books include *The Christian Woman in the Working World*, *A Woman's Search for Serenity*, *On Being a Deacon's Wife*, and *Police Wife*. Her new book will be for the wives of men in church-related vocations.

She believes very strongly that wives of men called into church-related vocations share their husbands' call.

"Our call is a call to unique responsibility, a call to be adaptable and flexible . . . and a call to joy." (BP)

## Missionaries Plan Return To Lebanon

By Jane Robison

**RICHMOND**—Dr. and Mrs. Finlay M. Graham, Southern Baptist missionaries to Lebanon since 1948, hated to leave their war-battered adopted country in May when the time of their four-month furlough arrived. In spite of trouble and dangers there, they plan to return in September.

"If it hadn't been for wanting to see our children, we wouldn't have left," says Mrs. Graham.

But they did leave, just two weeks before the leftist-controlled Beirut airport closed, and only four weeks before President Ford ordered the evacuation of Americans from a country divided by a "religious" war. Southern Baptist missionaries stationed in Lebanon elected to remain.

"This is the first time in our lives that we have lived in a country (Lebanon) where there has been no government, no security, just complete chaos," Mrs. Graham said in an interview here. "You think it's impossible to live in a situation like that, but it isn't. It's amazing. You just go along in your day-to-day jobs."

However, because the city is cordoned off and guarded by the different factions, the missionaries' "day-to-day jobs" take longer than they did in peace time. For example, a trip to the airport that used to take only 20 minutes before the war, now takes more than three hours because travelers must wind their way up through the mountains, back down into the foothills, and on into the city in order to stay within certain "political" boundaries, according to the Grahams.

Despite the worry, the Grahams say they are still anxious to return to the political hot-spot and the work they left at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut.

While the seminary is located in an area controlled by rightist Christians, and the Beirut Baptist School is under control by a leftist group, both have been able to carry on their work. However, the Beirut Baptist School, unlike the seminary, has had to dismiss classes several times due to heavier fighting in the area.

What will be in store for the Grahams and for Lebanon is uncertain, but the missionaries say they are optimistic.

"The Lebanese people are resilient," Graham said. "If they are given just two years of peace, they could clean up the mess and get back in business again." (BP)

### BIBLE PUZZLE PAGE ANSWERS

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"But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ" (Eph. 4:7).

Jane Robison, a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, is a summer intern for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's journal, "The Commission."

# Called To Lead

By Dr. W. R. White  
Baylor University, Waco, Texas

Basic Passage: Exodus 3-4  
Focal Passages: Exodus 3:3-8a, 10-11; 4:10-16

It is utterly amazing how a leader could be prepared, coming from the ranks of the enslaved right into the palace of the ruler of

the land. But Moses was reared in the palace of the oppressive Pharaoh by his own mother under the sponsorship of the daughter of the king.

Upon coming to age, Moses was aroused to strike an Egyptian who was severely treating Hebrew slaves. He killed him with the blow and had to flee for his life.

Moses fled to the land of Horeb. There he worked for a prominent citizen of the country. In fact, he tended sheep for him and ultimately married his daughter.

### AWESOME EXPERIENCE AND ASSIGNMENT—Exodus 3:3-8a, 10-11

One day while tending sheep, Moses saw a burning bush. He observed, however, that it was not being consumed. His curiosity got the best of him and he started toward the bush to investigate. At that moment a voice ordered him not to come near. He was instructed to take off his shoes for the area about the burning bush was holy ground.

The Lord identified Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He declared His sensitive awareness of the cruel affliction of His people.

The Lord called on Moses to go down to Egypt and lead His people out and into a delightful land that flowed with milk and honey. This obviously gave Moses a profound shock.

### MOSES'S FIRST REACTION—Exodus 4:10-16

Moses at first demurred vigorously. He made excuses, referring to his lack of eloquence and serious impediments in speaking.

The Lord let him know that since He had made him, He knew all about those problems and could rectify them easily.

Moses insisted on the Lord's finding someone else. The Lord was not pleased at all with the reaction of Moses, He, however, agreed to send his brother, Aaron, along who was gifted in forceful expression.

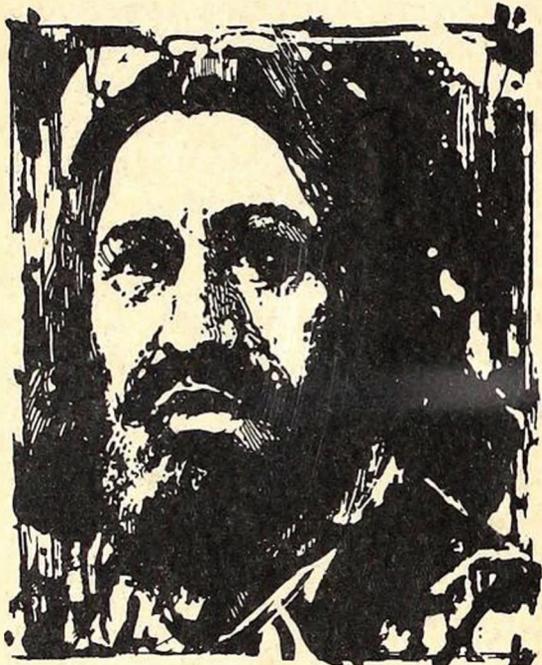
Nevertheless, the Lord made it clear that He would teach them both and put words in their mouths. Moses would be the leader and Aaron his spokesman.

To liberate a nation of slaves out of bondage and out of the hands of one of the great world powers over a vast desert was an awesome assignment for a shepherd.

We must remember, of course, that Moses had received the best training in the wisdom of Egypt in a royal palace. Yet, he faced impossible odds from a human point of view.

### MOSES FINALLY YIELDS

God cancelled every excuse and convinced Moses that He wanted him to lead in the liberation and deliverance of enslaved Israel. To his eternal credit, Moses said "Yes" to God's call. What a record God achieved through him!



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## Afraid You're Going Deaf?

Today, most hearing problems can be helped. Here is what thousands of people have done about it.

by David Smith

A free offer of special interest to those who hear but do not understand words has been announced by Beltone. A non-operating model of the smallest Beltone aid of its kind will be given absolutely free to anyone answering this advertisement.

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## Two Tennessee Youth Choirs Take Festival Trophies

Youth choirs from two Tennessee churches returned to this state recently with first-place trophies after participating in the Southern Baptist Convention Youth Choir Festival in Ridgecrest, N.C.

Tennessee was the only state with more than one winning choir out of more than 45 youth choirs from 13 states that attended one of the two sessions at the conference center. Trophies were awarded to youth choirs from Tullahoma First Church and Maryville First Church in recognition of their selection as the outstanding choirs in the respective categories.

The Tullahoma choir, under the direction of Lanny Johnson, was honored during the Alpha session of the festival, while the Maryville group, directed by Bob Brian, won its award at the close of the Omega session.

The presentations were made in separate awards ceremonies by John Chandler, supervisor of the field service section of the Church Music Dept., Baptist Sunday School Board.

Festival leaders included Bill Bruster, pastor, Central Church of Bearden, Knoxville, who led the worship services, and Wesley Forbis of the music faculty at William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., who served as the choral clinician.

The festival was planned and coordinated by the Church Music Dept., BSSB.

## Search Committee Named To Seek Stetson President

**DELAND, Fla.**—A seven-man trustee search committee to seek a new president for Stetson University was named here by Douglas Stenstrom, chairman of the board of trustees of the Baptist school.

Earl B. Edington of St. Petersburg was named chairman and Wendell Jarrard Sr., of DeLand, vice chairman, of the special committee responsible for finding a replacement for John E. Johns, who will leave the top Stetson post in August to become president of Furman University, Baptist school in Greenville, S.C.

The resignation of Johns to assume the presidency of his alma mater was announced in late May. His departure will end a 28-year tenure as a member of the faculty, an administrator, and the past six years as president of Stetson.

### NOTICE!

Photographs submitted for use in "Baptist And Reflector" must be black and white glossy prints. We cannot use color. No pictures are returned unless a self-addressed stamped envelope is sent with the picture. This is due to the increase in postal rates.

# HISTORICALLY

## FROM THE FILES

### 50 YEARS AGO

At a meeting of the Executive Board of the state convention, O. L. Hailey was elected to complete the history of Tennessee Baptists. He was to begin work on the volume soon.

Members of Nashville's Belmont Heights Church were to hold cornerstone laying services for a building under construction. Work on the building had been halted temporarily because of lack of funds. In spite of a heavy building debt, the church had increased its offering to the Unified Program, and was paying on it regularly.

### 25 YEARS AGO

A group of judges meeting in Chicago urged the nation's radio stations to devote more free time to religious programs which promote family worship.

Two young Tennessee women were named for overseas mission service. They were Virginia Katherine Terry of Bells who was to go to Brazil and Mrs. Burley Edward Cader of Cleveland who, with her husband, was to go to Brazil.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Glenwood Church, Nashville, broke ground for a new structure which was to include a 550-seat auditorium and capacity for 630 persons in educational space. Cost was to be \$132,000.

William C. Stockton, pastor of Mt. Juliet Church, Wilson County, and his family were on a mission tour of Baptist work in Mexico. The trip was sponsored by the church.

# From the Executive Secretary

By Ralph Norton

We heartily welcome the arrival of two new members to our convention staff here in Brentwood. Tom Madden assumed the



Norton

position of Convention Ministries Division Director and William Harbin the position of Church-Ministers Information Director, effective July 1.

Both of these positions are newly created by action of the Convention last November, and we are confident that these two capable men of varied pastoral and denominational experience will serve the needs of Tennessee Baptists effectively. Pray for them as they make the transition to a new field of service and call upon them if they can be of service to you.

We also welcome to our building the arrival of Wade Darby. He was elected recently to the post of Assistant Executive Director of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corp. during a meeting of its board of directors. He assumed this post on July 1. We will want to remember Dr. Darby in our prayers as he assumes this new responsibility in a different area of work for Tennessee Baptists.

## DeLap Named BSSB Consultant

**NASHVILLE**—Rollin S. DeLap, student director, Baptist General Convention of Texas, has accepted the position of consultant, National Student Ministries of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

An Illinois native, DeLap received the B.A. degree from Georgetown (Ky.) Baptist College after previously attending Missouri School of Mines, Rolla. He received his M.Div. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth.

DeLap taught Bible at the University of Texas. He has served as minister of music and youth at Oaklawn Baptist Church, Texarkana, and at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, Keller, Tex.

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# Kellogg Foundation Gives \$8000 Grant To C-N

JEFFERSON CITY—An \$8000 grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation has been received by Carson-Newman College, C-N president John A. Fincher announced recently.

The grant, approved by the Foundation under the National Library Demonstration Program, will be used by the East Tennessee Baptist college over a two-year period to purchase Ohio College Library Center terminal equipment and to train library personnel to use it.

The terminal equipment will give C-N access to computerized, on-line files of bibliographic information located in Columbus, Ohio. At this time nearly 1000 libraries from across the nation are a part of the network which provides a system of cataloging, technical processing, interlibrary loan communications and other services via the terminal equipment.

## Clark And Harvey Honored At New Orleans Alumni Luncheon

NORFOLK—Two Southern Baptist leaders were honored as New Orleans Seminary Distinguished Alumni during the seminary's annual alumni luncheon here Wednesday.

Receiving the awards were William L. Clark, director of the Division of Chaplaincy for the SBC Home Mission Board; and Charles Harvey, pastor of Sunset Acres Baptist Church, Shreveport, La. Harvey is the immediate past chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

The alumni elected Frank Gunn, pastor of First Baptist Church, Biloxi, Miss., as president, and heard an address by Seminary President Landrum Leavell.

Other officers elected to serve during the forthcoming year are: Nelson Price, Georgia pastor as President-elect; Mrs. Margeret Gibson, wife of a Georgia pastor as secretary; and Lionell Crowell, Nacogdoches, Texas, pastor as treasurer.

## Belmont College Offers New Degree Program

NASHVILLE—Belmont College's School of Management will begin a new four-year degree program leading to a bachelor of business administration in hotel, restaurant, and tourism management in August.

According to Robert Lambert, director of cooperative education and assistant professor in the School of Management, this new program has been designed in cooperation with the Tennessee Office of Tourism Development, the local Chamber of Commerce, and representatives of the food and lodging industries in Nashville.

A wide variety of careers are available including hotel administration, restaurant and food service activities, transportation, and a variety of related fields.

Russell G. Mawby, Kellogg Foundation president, explained that "the grant to Carson-Newman is one of approximately 300 similar grants being made to small, private liberal arts colleges throughout the United States as part of the Foundation's continuing program of support for improved college library services. . . The new grant program brings the Foundation's support of college library services to a total of nearly seven million dollars.

## Marian Grant Named To A SBC Committee

NORFOLK—Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention elected its first woman member of the Committee on Order of Business in 30 years Wednesday morning.

Mrs. Marse (Marian) Grant of Raleigh, N.C., became the first woman to be named to the committee since 1946 when Janice Singleton of Georgia served one year. Terms now run three years, with two members rotating off each year. Mrs. Grant's term expires in 1979.

The six-member committee plans the program for the annual sessions. Wayne Dehoney of Louisville, Ky., is the new chairman.

## Pioneer Black Seminarian Dies At 68 In Kentucky

LOUISVILLE—Garland K. Offutt, who may have been the first black graduate of any Southern Baptist Convention seminary, died here June 23 of cancer at the age of 68.

The Kentucky native successfully crossed racial barriers without incident in the early 1940's as a student at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a decade before Kentucky lawmakers finally rescinded the "Day Law" which prohibited blacks from attending classes with whites in the state's educational institutions, a seminary spokesman said.

"Offutt, armed with a call to preach and a bachelor of arts degree from all-black Kentucky State College, applied for admission and was quietly enrolled by Southern Seminary officials in a precedent-shattering decision which opened the way for dozens of black ministerial students who enrolled in later years," the spokesman said.

He went on to earn Southern Seminary's master of theology degree in 1944 and doctor of theology degree in 1948, having written a dissertation on "The Concept of Kinsman in the Biblical Doctrine of Redemption."

In 1950, Offutt became pastor of West Chestnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, where he served until his death. He was a leader in the Progressive National Baptist Convention. (BP)

## H. H. Hobbs Returns As Baptist Hour Speaker

Herschel H. Hobbs will take a verbal look at America—past, present, and future—when the country observes its 200th birthday in July.

Hobbs will return to the radio pulpit after a summer vacation with a series of Baptist Hour sermons titled "Happy Birthday, America," "Look To The Horizons," "The Crack In The Liberty Bell," and "Firecrackers Are Just Noise."

"The Baptist Hour," produced and syndicated by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, is aired on 366 radio stations across the country.

In "Happy Birthday, America," Hobbs notes, "America was founded, humanly speaking, by imperfect men. But they based it upon Christian principles."

This means that Americans "are to be stewards of the country's blessing and opportunities," he concludes.

The July 11 Baptist Hour sermon explores the country's future. "America's past is an exclamation mark. Her future is a question mark. The answer to questions about our nation will be found in the spiritual realm," Hobbs says.

"In the sense of a crossroad, our nation is to the modern world what Palestine, Israel's prepared home, was to the ancient world."

In the July 18 sermon Hobbs speaks of the symbolic truths evidenced by the crack in the Liberty Bell.

"The crack in the Liberty Bell should remind us that while we speak of freedom in our nation, not all of its people are really free," he says. "Politically, yes, but in the broader reaches of life, no.

"Freedom involves the right of equal opportunity to prepare for life, to compete equally in life, to achieve in life to the limit of one's abilities. Many who possess liberty abuse it to their own hurt and the hurt of others. They confuse liberty with license. No man is free who cannot control himself."

In the July 25 sermon, "Firecrackers Are Just Noise," Hobbs reminds, "We must remember that our church buildings are no substitute for God. Our nation must return to the true God, not some material substitute for Him. There must be total involvement of our people in the political process, and in a spiritual renewal which will make us a nation God can afford to bless and to spare."

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